

COMMENT FORM

Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ I do not wish to be on the project mailing list

Which meeting did you attend? Wanamingo, MN June 17, 2009

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☒ Project Purpose and Need
- ☒ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☒ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☒ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☒ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☒ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

Those aren't enough?!?

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

☒ Agriculture ☒ Residential ☐ Conservation Easement
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Other: Recreational

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

Our property is located in Wauamingo Township between Kenyon and Wauamingo.

The "special use" of our property is that it is our home, our family farm. We, my husband & children and I, are here 24/7 along with our animals. We work, sleep and have our recreation all within this area -- walking, jogging, horseback riding, biking, playing in the creeks.

We made a choice to lead this materially poor, hard working but healthy, wholesome, family oriented existence, and have poured blood, sweat and tears into it for 20 years. Our quality of life would be diminished by the presence of a huge power line through this area -- both physically and perceptually.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

The health & safety of the "biological resources" of my family and those of my neighbors is my utmost concern. Also our animals. We don't want to live anywhere near a giant power line. Other farms around here have families on original family farms that date back to the days this area were homesteaded. That IS the culture in Goodhue County -- whether YOU value it or not, WE DO.

Additionally you would be removing from production some of the verifiably best crop land in the state.

The corridor from Hampton → Kenyon → Zumbrota is crisscrossed with innumerable creeks and wetland areas. Bald eagles are nesting & flying all around here.

Besides the obvious addition of cost/miles in detouring on Hwy 5 to go south (versus Hwy 5) you would be affecting more residences, more schools (Kenyon and Wauamingo), more cropland, more wildlife habitats

And most of us in these communities live and work here, so our exposure would be greater.

I-178-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at:

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-178-002

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety as well as visual resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-004

Your comment has been noted. Impacts to historic and archeological resources affected by the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-005

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and wetlands will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

- I-178-007 There was no presentation, although tables were there with written information which was helpful although read later. The fact that this route is coming our way was completely new news to a lot of us. I was disappointed no one had the bravado to stand up in front of a bunch of upset Kenyon & Waramingo residents and try to explain why the utility companies should be able to insert something as unwelcome and detrimental as a giant power line onto our beautiful, quiet, rural properties to aid them in marketing energy from ND & SD to points East of LaCrosse, WI to make a fortune for themselves now and into the future. Terms such as "certificate of need" and "eminent domain" sound very legal and important, but terms such as "raping and pillaging" better describe the situation from our perspective. Oh, and as for as the personal consumption -- I hang my family's clothes on a line to dry them. We have one television (no cable, no DVD, no plasma), I wash my dishes by hand... we are low end users.
- I-178-008
- I-178-009

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Wendi & Greg Pillar

Representing (Optional): _____

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Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

I-178-006

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to agricultural resources will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

I-178-007

Your comment has been noted.

I-178-008

Your comment has been noted.

I-178-009

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.